

As a high school journalism teacher, I attempt to teach my students why a free press is important to a democracy. Not only will lifting the cross-ownership ban to allow further media consolidation NOT serve the public's best interests, it will serve to undermine our democracy by allowing a smaller number of corporate entities to control important decisions of what constitutes news and how (or if) news is distributed. Furthermore, I, for one, am not fooled by FCC chair Michael Powell's pseudo-patriotic rhetoric: "The flame of the American ideal may flicker, but it will never be extinguished...We will do our small part and press on with our business, solemnly, but resolutely." I am using his quote as an example in my classes as the worst kind of phony bandwagon appeal that corporate advertisers use to dupe the public. DO NOT lift the cross-ownership ban to allow further media consolidation.